

The War for Independence: A Revolution for Whom?

Supplement: Martin, "Protest and Defiance in the Ranks"

Abigail Adams, "Remember the Ladies"

Prepare for Debate

Did the War for Independence constitute a revolution? In what sense? For whom?

Identifications:

George Washington, Continental Army, Loyalist (Tory), Patriot, Battle of Staten Island, Battle of Saratoga, General William Howe, Treaty of Alliance (with France), Battle of Yorktown, General Cornwallis, Treaty of Paris (of 1783)

Questions:

1. What factors allowed the British to enter the war confident that they could beat the Americans? What advantages did the British have?

2. What conditions and circumstances helped the Americans to neutralize many of Britain's advantages? What similarities do you see between the Vietnam War and the Revolutionary War?

3. What role did the Continental Army and local militias play in the American war effort?

4. What role did African-Americans play in the war? What led some of them to fight for the Americans? Why did some fight for the British?

5. Why did the military situation look poor for the Americans in late 1776?

6. What led France to support the American cause? What impact did French support for the Americans have on the war?

7. Why did some Americans remain Loyalists? How did they view the Patriot cause? How were they treated by Patriots? By the British?

8. What were the main provisions of the Treaty of Paris of 1783?